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BRAM STOKER'S

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OF 4

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MATURE READERS

ROY
THOMAS

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BRAM STOKER'S Dracula™

BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY JAMES V. HART
ROY THOMAS MIKE MIGNOLA JOHN NYBERG JOHN COSTANZA MARK CHIARELLO
SCRIPT PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

"I, Dr. Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, herewith steel myself to complete the story of Dracula, the Fifteenth-Century Warrior Prince who had returned from the grave as one of the Undead...and who had come to England not only to establish an Empire of Blood, but also to find the reincarnation of his lost love, the beautiful Elisabeta.

"And find her he did...in the person of our dear Wilhelmina Murray, fiancée of one of his previous victims, Mr. Jonathan Harker.

"It is the documents of the actual participants in the struggle against Dracula which I have reproduced to tell the tale, such as the journals of Mr. Harker, now husband to our Mina.

"It was the death of Mina's childhood friend, Lucy Westenra, that finally began to marshal the forces against Dracula. I persuaded the three men who had loved her to go with me to her tomb: her betrothed, Arthur Holmwood, the future Lord Godalming...the adventurous Texan, Quincey P. Morris...and Dr. Jack Seward, once my student but now my colleague, and the overseer of a nearby lunatic asylum.

"There, we all saw for ourselves the blood-hungering vampire that Miss Lucy had become...and, with tears in our eyes, I directed her fiancé to put the fateful stake through her undead heart.

"But, meanwhile, Dracula, had seen in dear Mina the reborn soul of his beloved Elisabeta...and he meant to take her for his own, for all eternity. Our only hope was to discover the secret place where he slept by day..."



TOPPS COMICS

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TERRIFYING AS YOUR STORY IS, MR. HARKER, YOUR JOURNAL IS TRUE--I WILL PLEDGE MY LIFE ON IT!

AND YOU, DEAR MADAM MINA, WHO INSIST I READ YOURS, GIVE ME HOPE THERE ARE GOOD WOMEN STILL LEFT. BUT EAT--*EAT!*

AS A DOCTOR, I MUST ASK YOU, MR. HARKER--IN YOUR INFIDELITY WITH THOSE DEMONIC WOMEN, DID YOU FOR ONE INSTANT--

--TASTE OF THEIR BLOOD?

NO!

GOOD. THEN YOUR BLOOD IS NOT INFECTED WITH THE DISEASE THAT DESTROYED POOR LUCY.

I DOUBTED EVERYTHING--EVEN MYSELF. I WAS IMPOTENT WITH FEAR. YOU HAVE CURED ME.

AND YOU, MY DEAR MADAM--ARE YOU CURED, AS WELL?

OF WHAT, DR. VAN HELSING?

OF WHATEVER HAPPENED IN THOSE PAGES TORN OUT OF YOUR DIARY.

THE ANCIENT PRINCE DRACUL HIMSELF.

HE DIED FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO--

--BUT HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.



TELL ME, DOCTOR-- HOW DID LUCY DIE? I MUST KNOW! SHE WAS MY DEAREST FRIEND, AND NO ONE HAS TOLD ME.

WAS SHE-- IN GREAT PAIN?

JA... AT FIRST.

BUT SINCE WE CUT OFF HER HEAD AND DROVE A STAKE THROUGH HER HEART AND BURNED IT--

-- SHE IS AT PEACE.

THAT'S ENOUGH, DOCTOR!

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE MUST FIND THIS DARK PRINCE AND DO THE SAME FOR HIM.

THERE IS LITTLE TIME...

I KNOW WHERE THE BASTARD SLEEPS. I SENT HIM THERE MYSELF-- TO CARFAX ABBEY.

JA.

THE BLACK DEVIL IS JACK SEWARD'S NEIGHBOR!



HE CAN DIRECT THE ELEMENTS--
THE STORM, THE FOG, THE
THUNDER.

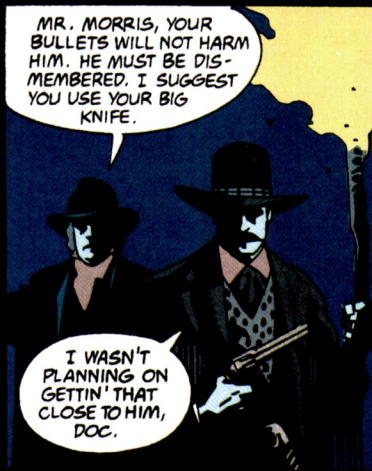
HE COMMANDS THE MEANER
THINGS-- THE BAT, RODENT,
WOLF.

HE CAN SEE IN THE DARK--
AND HEAR BEYOND MORTAL
BOUNDS.

DRACULA CAN DO ALL
THESE THINGS, AND YET
HE IS NOT FREE.

HE MUST REST IN
SACRED EARTH OF HIS
HOMELAND TO GAIN HIS
EVIL POWERS--

-- AND THAT EARTH IS
WHERE WE SHALL
DESTROY HIM.

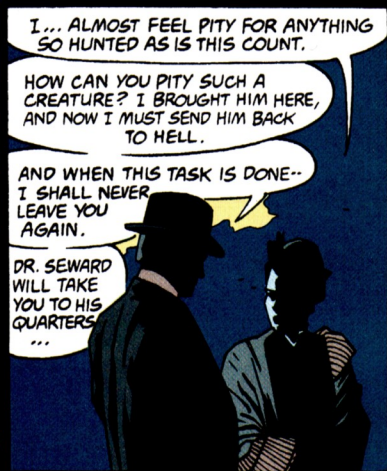


MR. MORRIS, YOUR BULLETS WILL NOT HARM HIM. HE MUST BE DISMEMBERED. I SUGGEST YOU USE YOUR BIG KNIFE.

I WASN'T PLANNING ON GETTIN' THAT CLOSE TO HIM, DOC.



HAHAHAHA



I... ALMOST FEEL PITY FOR ANYTHING SO HUNTED AS IS THIS COUNT.

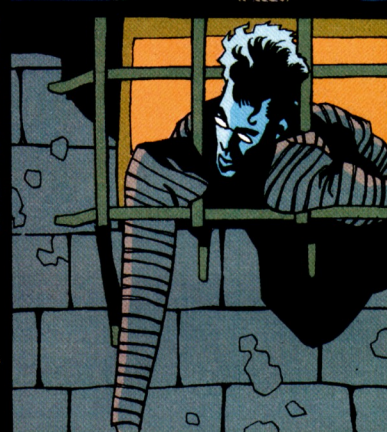
HOW CAN YOU PITY SUCH A CREATURE? I BROUGHT HIM HERE, AND NOW I MUST SEND HIM BACK TO HELL.

AND WHEN THIS TASK IS DONE-- I SHALL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.

DR. SEWARD WILL TAKE YOU TO HIS QUARTERS...



... WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE.



THE MASTER! I SMELL HIM! HE FEEDS ON PRETTY MISS!

BE QUIET, RENFIELD!

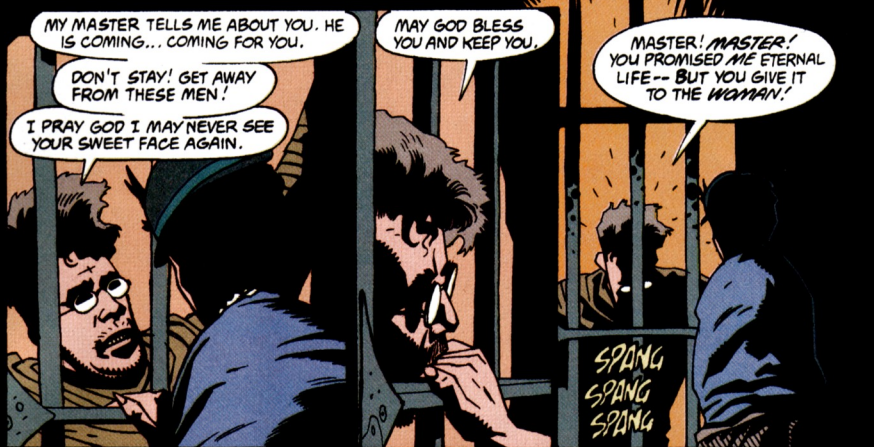
RENFIELD? YOU MUST LET ME SEE HIM...



RENFIELD, BEHAVE YOURSELF NOW!

YOU'RE THE BRIDE MY MASTER COVETS!

I HAVE A HUSBAND. I AM MRS. HARKER.

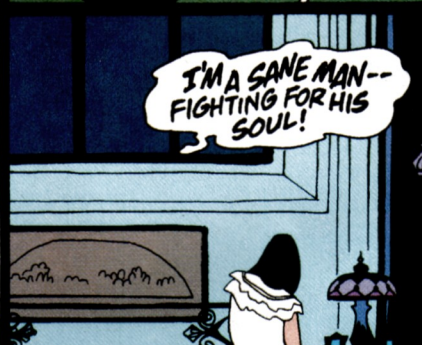
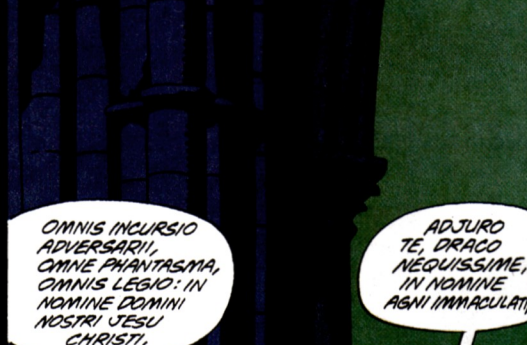


THE SACRED EARTH
OF HIS HOMELAND.

DESTROY EVERY BOX--
STERILIZE THE EARTH INSIDE.

LEAVE HIM
NO REFUGE.

LET THE
EXORCISM
BEGIN!





ADJURO TE, SERPENSE
ANTIQUE, PER JUDICEM VIVORUM
ET MORTUORUM,

PER FACTOREM TUUM,
PER FACTOREM MUNDI:
PER EUM, QUI HABET
POTESTATEM MITTERE TE
IN GEHENNAM, UT AB
HOC FAMULO DEI.



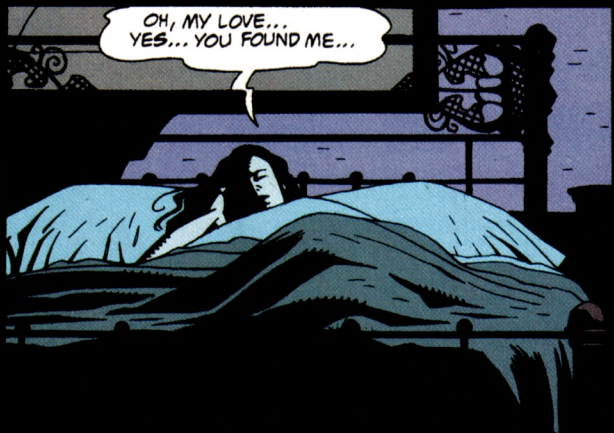
I TRIED TO WARN HER--
BUT SHE WOULD NOT
LISTEN!

SHE WILL BE
SPARED, MASTER--

RENFIELD--YOU
BETRAYED ME!







OH, MY LOVE...
YES... YOU FOUND ME...



MINA... MY
MOST PRECIOUS
LIFE...



I HAVE WANTED
THIS TO HAPPEN...
I KNOW THAT
NOW. I WANT
TO BE WITH YOU...
ALWAYS.

YOU CAN'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING...



YES...

I DO
KNOW.



I WAS SO AFRAID I WOULD
NEVER FEEL YOUR TOUCH
AGAIN.

I FEARED YOU
WERE DEAD...



THERE IS NO
LIFE IN THIS
BODY.



BUT YOU LIVE! WHO ARE YOU?
YOU MUST TELL ME!

I AM NOTHING.
LIFELESS... SOUL-
LESS... HATED...
FEARED.



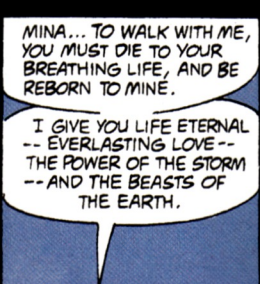
MANY HAVE SUFFERED
BECAUSE OF WHAT I AM.

WITHOUT YOU-- THE
LOVE YOU GIVE ME--
I AM DEAD TO ALL
THE WORLD.



GOD FORGIVE
ME... I LOVE
YOU.

I WANT TO BE
WHAT YOU ARE--
SEE WHAT YOU
SEE-- LOVE
WHAT YOU LOVE.



MINA... TO WALK WITH ME,
YOU MUST DIE TO YOUR
BREATHING LIFE, AND BE
REBORN TO MINE.

I GIVE YOU LIFE ETERNAL
-- EVERLASTING LOVE --
THE POWER OF THE STORM
-- AND THE BEASTS OF
THE EARTH.



WALK WITH ME-- TO BE
MY LOVING WIFE --
FOREVER.

YES, I-- I
WILL-- YES...

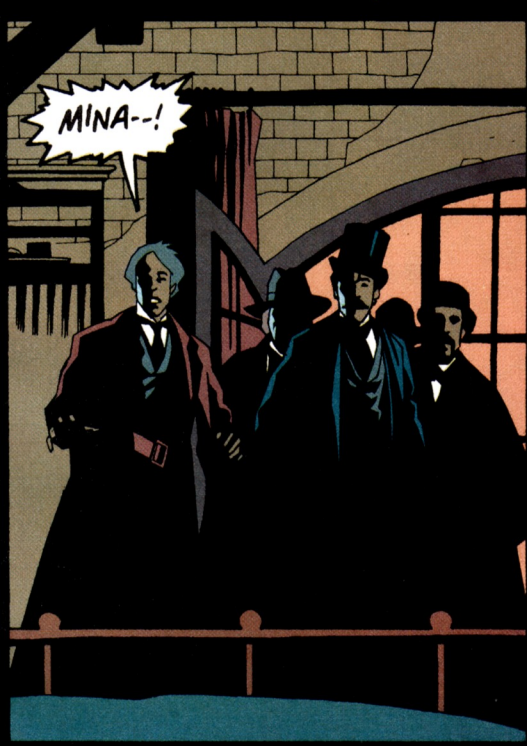
I WILL TAKE YOU'
AS MY ETERNAL
BRIDE --



-- FLESH
OF MY
FLESH --
BLOOD
OF MY
BLOOD.



DRINK-- AND
JOIN ME IN
ETERNAL
LIFE!





WHAT THE
DEVIL--?

WATCH
OUT!



YOUR WAR
AGAINST GOD
IS OVER!



OLD
FOOL!



YOU WOULD DESTROY ME
WITH YOUR IDOLS--I WHO
SERVED THE CROSS, AND
COMMANDED NATIONS HUNDREDS
OF YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE
BORN!

MY REVENGE HAS JUST
BEGUN--AND SHE, YOUR
BEST BELOVED, IS NOW
MY FLESH, MY BLOOD,
MY KIN--MY BRIDE!





NO!

LEAVE HER TO GOD! YOUR ARMIES ABANDONED YOU.

NOW YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!



FAREWELL, MY LOVE...



...FOR NOW.

WHAT--?



MEIN GOTT...





"HE IS
GONE..."



...BUT HE
SPEAKS
TO ME."

HE HAS A STRONG
MIND CONNECTION TO
YOU. HIS HEART WAS
STRONG ENOUGH TO
SURVIVE THE GRAVE.



I KNOW I AM BECOMING...LIKE HIM. WHEN
I FIND IN MYSELF A SIGN OF HARM TO
ANYONE I LOVE... I SHALL DIE.

YOU MUST NOT DIE! YOUR
SALVATION IS HIS DESTRUCTION.
THAT IS WHY I MUST *HYPO-*
TIZE YOU, MINA.

HELP ME FIND HIM--
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
HELP ME, MINA.



LOOK AT THIS
FLAME... THIS
LIGHT. I WANT
YOU TO SLEEP...
SLEEP NOW.

YES...I MUST
GO TO HIM...



HE
CALLS...



WHAT
DO YOU
HEAR?

THE
OCEAN...

WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

THE HOLD...
OF A SHIP.



GOING
HOME...

...HOME...



FROM JONATHAN
HARKER'S JOURNAL:
28 OCTOBER

We left London by train and crossed the English channel that night in stormy seas, no doubt from the passage of the count's ship. He commands the winds, but we still have the advantage. By train, we can reach the Romanian port at Varna in three days. By ship, it will take him at least a week. From Paris, we traveled through the Alps to Buda-Pest. The Count must sail around the Rock of Gibraltar, where we have posted a lookout, and then on to the Black Sea port at Varna where we will meet his ship and burn it into the sea.



NO TRANSFUSION TUBES, MY FRIEND. THE VAMPIRE HAS BAPTIZED HER WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

HER BLOOD IS DYING.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, DEAREST. I'M HERE.

MY POOR JONATHAN... HE CALLS ME TO HIM. WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?

NO, NO... I HAVE DONE THIS TO BOTH OF US.

MINA--IF YOU DIE, I WILL NOT LET YOU GO INTO THE UNKNOWN ALONE.

Noon.
Holmwood
received a
wire from his
clerk at Lloud's.
Dracula's
ship sailed
past us in
the night to
the port at
Galatz...



The black devil
is reading
Mina's mind!
He knows
every move
we make!

We will follow the
bastard upriver on
horseback, and cut him
off. He must not reach
the castle. I will
dispatch van Helsing
straight for the
Borqo Pass.

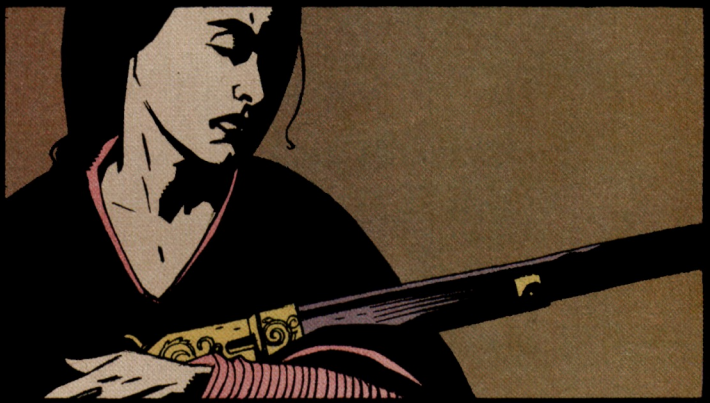


If we fail in
our task, van
Helsing will
have to finish
him.



And yet, if there
was any other
way, I would
never let him
bring Mina,
cursed as she
is with that
devil's illness,
into the jaws of
his deathtrap...

...even armed
with Quincey's
Winchester rifle.



DO YOU KNOW THE PLACE
YOU TAKE HER, PROFESSOR.

HAVE YOU FELT
THE VAMPIRE
LIPS ON *YOUR*
THROAT, OLD
MAN?

UNLESS WE REDEEM HER, MADAM
MINA IS NOT SAFE ANYWHERE
ON THIS EARTH!

YOU THINK YOU KNOW HER
PAIN? SHE WILL BE *HIS*!

GOD'S WILL
AND HER OWN
ARE OUR ONLY
CHANCE!

MAY GOD GIVE
HIM INTO MY HANDS
JUST LONG ENOUGH
TO SEND HIS SOUL
TO BURNING HELL!

From Varna, Mina and Van Helsing
took a carriage and we continued
towards Salatz. I am fearful for
Mina. She is now our decoy. Dracula
cannot know our plan, as he can
read only her mind. But I dread
her reaching the castle first.

MINA...

...you are
near...

...but you
are *not*
alone!



DR. VAN HELSING--
I-- I KNOW THIS
PLACE!



YES,
MADAM
MINA.

IT IS THE END
OF THE WORLD.



EAT SOMETHING,
CHILD. YOU MUST FIGHT
HIS SYPHILITIC CURSE.

I'M...NOT
HUNGRY.



SIMT CUM
ARDE. DOR MA
MISTUI'E.
ARDINC ARDE.



ARDINC. ARDE.
ADING. ARDE.



YOU ARE SO
GOOD TO ME
PROFESSOR.



I KNOW LUCY HARBORED SECRET DESIRES FOR YOU. SHE TOLD ME.



I, TOO, KNOW WHAT MEN DESIRE.



WILL YOU CUT OFF MY HEAD AND DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH ME, AS YOU DID POOR LUCY--



--YOU MURDERING BASTARD!?



HAHAHAHA

SISTER... TAKE HIM FIRST, BUT LEAVE SOME SWEETS FOR US.

HAHAHAHA



NOT WHILE I LIVE!



DOMINE, CHRISTOS-- BLESS THIS CHILD-- DELIVER HER FROM EVIL--!



EEEEEEEEEE



I HAVE LOST LUCY. I WILL NOT LOSE YOU TO HIM!

YOU ARE SAFE INSIDE THE RING!

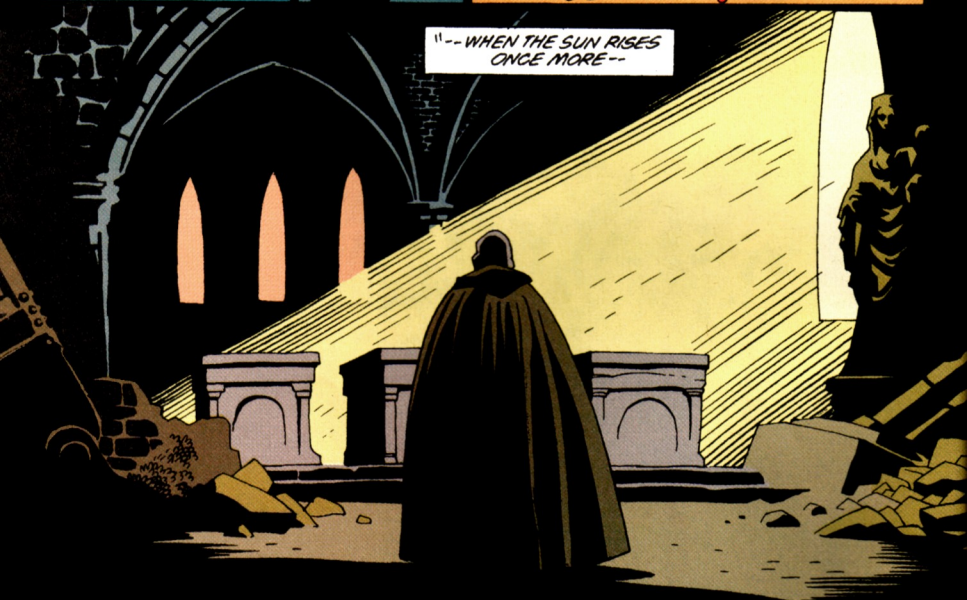


WHINNEEEEE!



LIEBER GOTT--
THEY ARE KILLING
THE HORSE!

DO NOT FEAR, MADAM
MINA! IT WILL BE
OUR TURN--



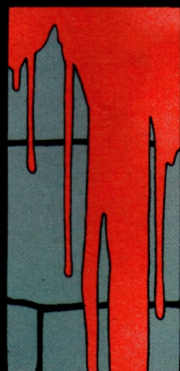
"-- WHEN THE SUN RISES
ONCE MORE --"

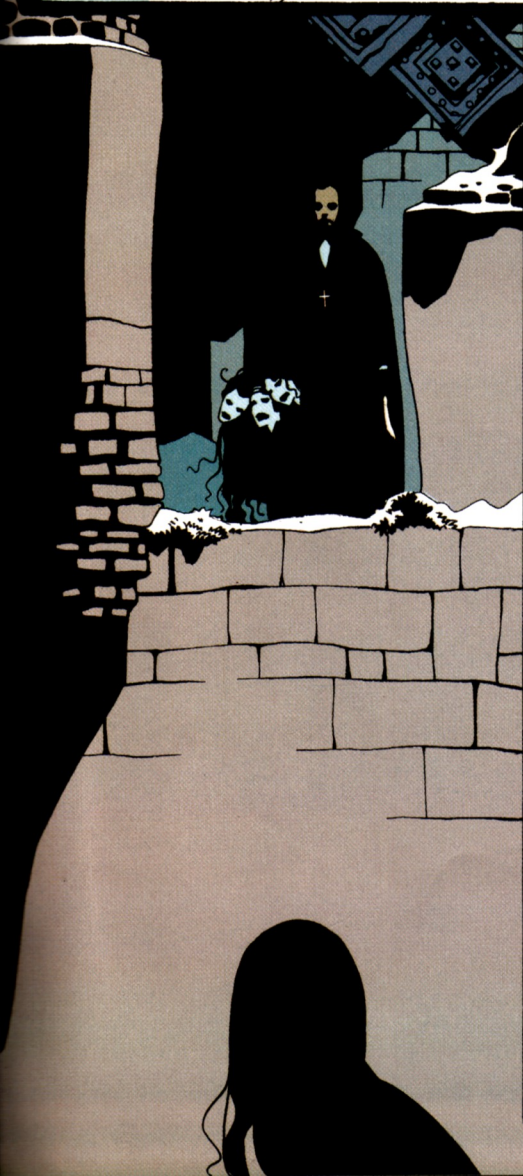
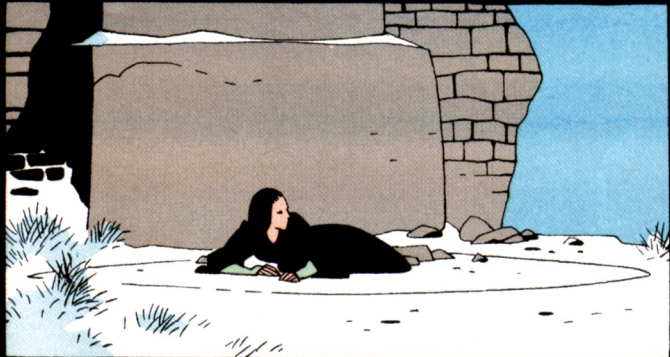


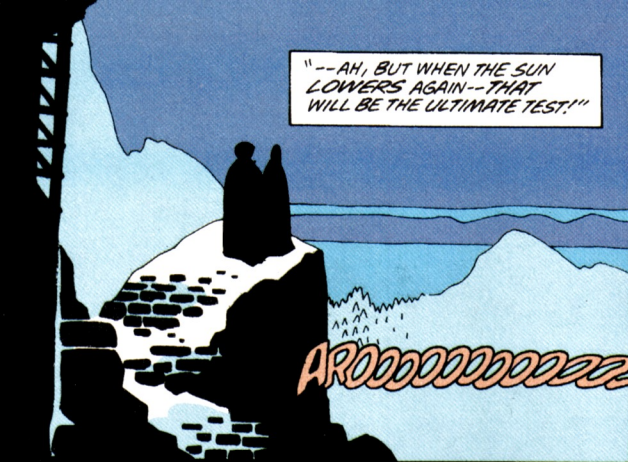
SCRAPE



WOCK

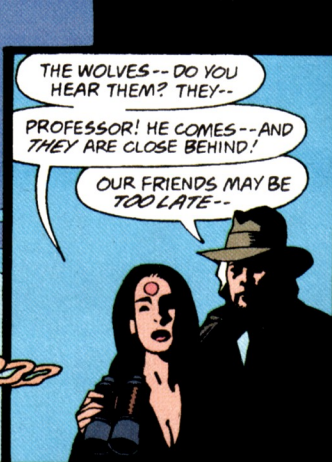






"-- AH, BUT WHEN THE SUN
LOWERS AGAIN-- THAT
WILL BE THE ULTIMATE TEST!"

ARoooooooooooo



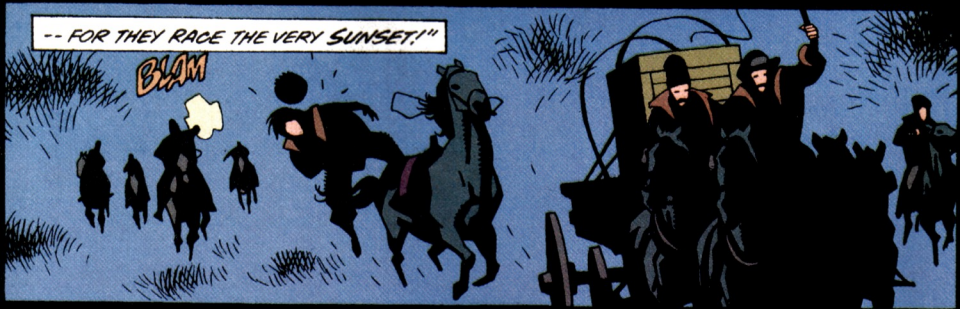
THE WOLVES-- DO YOU
HEAR THEM? THEY--

PROFESSOR! HE COMES-- AND
THEY ARE CLOSE BEHIND!

OUR FRIENDS MAY BE
TOO LATE--



"-- GOD HELP US--



-- FOR THEY RACE THE VERY SUNSET!"

BLAM



...ELIZABETA...!



...ELIZABETA...!



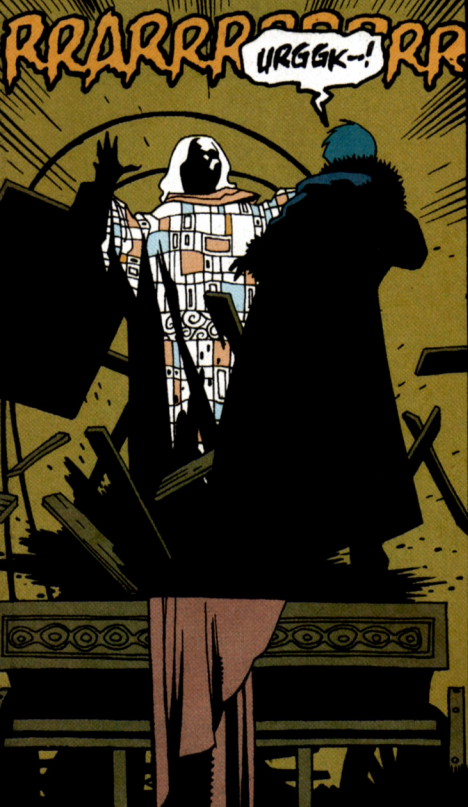
I MUST GO
TO HIM!

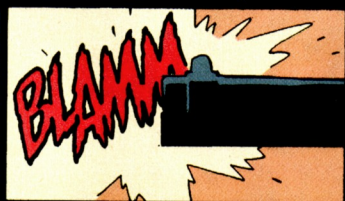
MADAM
MINA!
WAIT!














PROFESSOR!
IT'S QUINCEY--
HE'S--




REST
HIM. LET
HIM SLEEP
IN PEACE.



WE HAVE
ALL BECOME
GOD'S MAD
MEN.



WHERE
IS MY GOD--
HE HAS
FORSAKEN
ME.



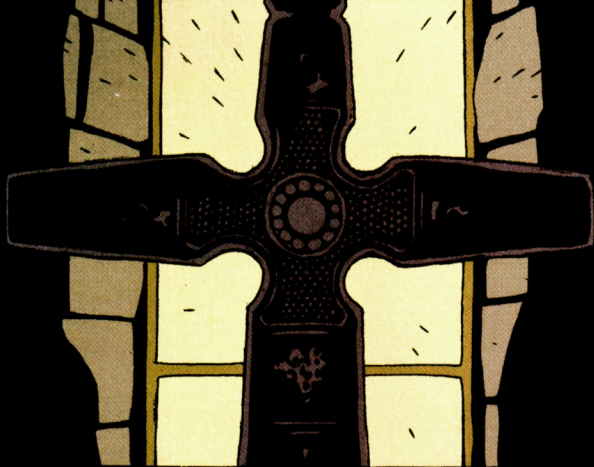
YOU CANNOT
LEAVE ME!

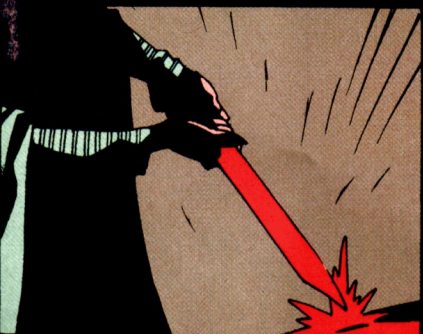
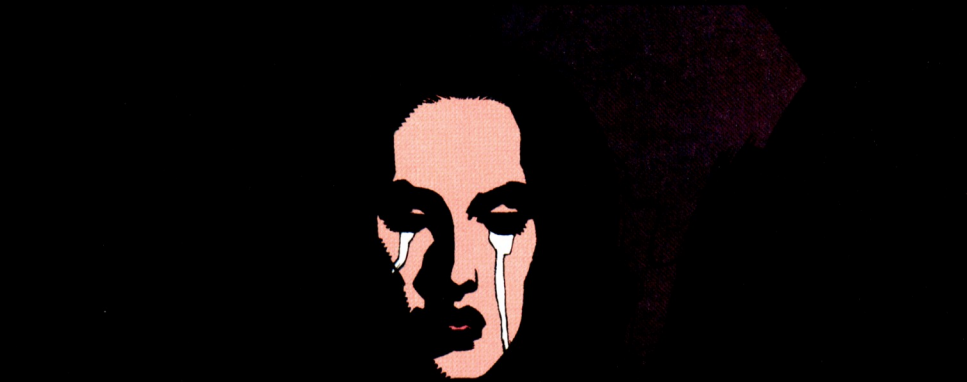
I WANT TO BE WITH
YOU-- ALWAYS!

IT IS
FINISHED



NO--
PLEASE--
I LOVE
YOU...







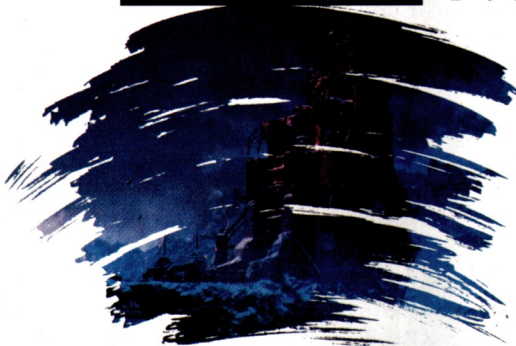
"We want no proofs. We ask none to believe us. God be thanked that all has not been in vain-- the curse has passed away."

INSIDE
COPPOLA'S

Dracula™

PART FOUR

Picture Perfect



With the movie shot, Francis Ford Coppola settled into the formidable challenge of editing **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**. Certain elements were lessened or dropped, others amplified. Early test screenings suggested that a little blood goes a long way. Some very sexy moments were deleted altogether. With the November release date fast approaching, Coppola continued to fine-tune his creation for as long as he possibly could. "Time means

nothing to a vampire," the producer-director quipped. "But a filmmaker has obligations to his studio, and to the public." America was expecting **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA** on Friday the 13th, November, 1992. Coppola knew he had to deliver, and he did.

"A deliriously imaginative piece of work," wrote Julie Salamon of the *Wall Street Journal* after seeing the film. "It all unfolds like a chaotic dream, through densely detailed imagery..." Richard Corliss of *Time Magazine* was equally impressed. "Coppola composes movies as Wagner composes opera," he observed in his review. "The force of his will is as imposing as the range of his art." But perhaps Vincent Canby of the *New York Times* summed it up best: "(**BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**) is a testimonial to the glories of filmmaking as an end in itself." The director couldn't have phrased it better himself.

Bolstered by critical raves, **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA** earned more than 30 million dollars in its opening weekend, a staggering sum that exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. How could Coppola have anticipated such extraordinary interest in the frequently-filmed *Dracula* legend?

"You don't make movies because you think people might be interested in a certain kind of thing," the filmmaker concludes philosophically. "You make movies to please yourself, to get it the way you see it, to delight *you*. If others can appreciate where you're coming from, your vision of it all, then everybody wins."

Francis Ford Coppola directs Winona Ryder (Mina) and Keanu Reeves (Harker) in an early scene from the film.



BY GARY GERANI



DRACULA:

VICED

THE IMPALER™

THE HORRIFYING REAL
ORIGIN OF DRACULA

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BRAM STOKER'S

Dracula

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ON SALE MARCH





"We've all become God's madmen."

-Van Helsing